

OUTLINE OF INFORMATION NEEDED FOR DESCRIPTION
OF AN AREA REQUIRING OUTSIDE AGRICULTURAL LABOR

(For use of area and State extension farm labor personnel)

Preface

Prior to World War II there had developed during the thirties definite patterns of farm labor migration. In several sections of the country the number of persons and the areas covered assumed large proportion. As manpower demands accelerated during the war and supply dwindled, some of these patterns nearly disappeared.

In order that a clearer and more precise picture of the content and pattern of the current movements may be had for purposes of planning for recruitment and placement, at various levels of operation, the attached material has been prepared for use by personnel in the field to aid in the development of a comprehensive picture of this segment of the agricultural labor problem.

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Migrant agricultural workers for the purpose of this outline are all those workers employed on agricultural work in an area whose usual place of residence is at such a distance from their employment that they do not return to their residence each night (except foreign or domestic workers transported at government expense) or such workers as may follow seasonal employment of such a character that they are not considered to be "permanent residents" of any particular locality.

I. Describe the area as to kind of crops grown requiring outside labor.

1. List principal crops for which outside labor is needed.

a. Get total or approximate acreage and production of each crop in an area listed above.

b. Dates of harvest--get starting date of harvest; starting and ending dates of peak period; (period of full activity or when labor requirement is at maximum level) and ending date of harvest.

2. List worker requirement per acre or other unit of production for the activity with high labor requirement, such as fruit thinning, bean picking, cherry picking, sugar beet blocking and thinning, sugar beet topping and loading, etc.

3. Compute total labor required for each crop.

4. List estimated percentage of total workers needed in area or the approximate number of workers coming from various sources in 1946.

- a. On-farm residents.....
b. Day-hauls (local or nearby residents).....
c. Nonlocal (cannot live at home).....

5. Estimate or compute outside workers used in 1946 as follows:*

Migrants.....
 Foreign workers.....
 Prisoners of war.....
 Local day-hauls.....
 Other unusual sources.....
 Total.....

*For Florida, Arizona, and southern California crop year may be used.

6. Give customary method of payment and average 1946 wage rates:

- a. Is payment to the worker an hourly or daily wage or by piece work? Give unit basis.
- b. List average wage rates for principal crops and activity, that is, thinning, harvesting, etc.
- c. How does worker receive payment?
 - a. Direct from grower.
 - b. From crew leader or contractor.
- d. Was a bonus payment plan used? Describe.

II. Describe area as to characteristics of outside workers used.

1. Describe the migrant workers used in the area.
 - a. As to source of workers.
 - (1) Geographical (2) Racial (3) Rural or urban.
 - b. As to work experience.
 - (1) Habitual migrants.
 - (2) Mobile agricultural workers.
 - (3) Other, such as urban youth, industrial workers, untrained in agricultural work, etc.
 - c. Where do workers go from this area?

2. How do the migrant workers in the area generally move from area to area?

- a. In crews under direction of a crew leader or contractor.
- b. As itinerant family groups or individuals.
- c. Other.

3. Method of travel.

Is travel into the area chiefly by private auto, crew-leader-owned auto, truck, or bus, employer-owned auto, truck, or bus, or public carrier?

4. Payment of transportation.

Is transportation to the area paid by worker, by employer, or advanced by employer and deducted from worker's pay?

III. Describe area as to facilities available for outside workers.

1. List kind of housing available in area:

- a. Grower housing on farms.
- b. Camps--kind--number--number of workers accommodated:

2. List and describe the health facilities available to migrant workers in area:

- a. Services of doctor.
- b. Hospitalization.
- c. Nurses aid.

3. What facilities for child care are available?

- a. Are day nurseries available for small children?

4. Do children of migrants attend school regularly during school term?

- a. What school facilities are available to them?

5. What recreational and social facilities are available to migrant workers and their families?